REL 2300

Religions of the World

Section: U11

Hybrid/Certified

Spring Term 2027

Course Meeting Information

Examples:

Class meeting times	
Day:	TBA
Time:	TBA
Location:	TBA

Course Time Zone: Eastern Time (ET). Course due dates and times are according to this time zone.

Professor Information

Luisa Mulato

Roles: Primary Instructor

Email: lmulato@fiu.edu

Phone: 305-348-2186

Office Hours: Zoom

Office Location: Zoom-In Person

Department or Academic Unit: Department of Religious Studies

Course Prerequisites

Course prerequisites, if any, are listed below.

Course Description

This course introduces students to the world's major religious traditions using an academic approach. Traditions studied include Indigenous Sacred Ways, Hinduism, Jainism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Taoism, Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Sikhism, New Religious Movements, and religion in the 21st century. Emphasis will be placed on historical development,

central teachings, rituals, and the role of religion in shaping cultures and societies.

Required Text: Mary Pat Fisher. Living Religions. 10th Edition. Pearson, 2017.

Textbook and Course Materials

Living Religions

Required/Recommended: Required

Authors: Mary Pat Fisher, Robin Rinehart

Publisher: Pearson

Publication Date: 2017

Copyright Date: 2017

ISBN 10: 0134169123

ISBN 13: 9780134169125

Chapters/Pages: 556

Panther Book Pack

Get all required course materials for $22 per undergrad credit hour through Panther Book Pack. You'll be charged automatically unless you opt out within 3 days after the add/drop deadline.

For more details, to compare costs, and to learn how to access your course materials, visit the Panther Book Pack information page on FIU OneStop.

Student Learning Outcomes/ Objectives

- Explain the historical and cultural contexts that shaped the development of religions across the globe. (UCC, GL)
- Compare and contrast diverse worldviews and analyze the significance of religious diversity. (GL)
- Analyze a contemporary issue and evaluate how at least two religious traditions address it. (GRW, GL)
- Produce two major research essays that meet FIU's Gordon Rule Writing requirement by using scholarly sources, critical analysis, and proper MLA formatting. (GRW)
- Demonstrate critical thinking through written assignments and oral discussions that meet academic standards. (GRW)
- Reflect on the role of religion in society and its influence on identity, ethics, and global issues. (GL)
- Identify the major teachings, practices, and rituals of the world's major religious traditions. (UCC, GL)

Expectations of this Course

This course is designed to introduce you to the study of the world's major religious traditions in an academic setting. To make the most of our time together and succeed in this class, students are expected to:

- **Engage with the material**: Complete the assigned readings before class and come prepared to discuss, analyze, and reflect on the topics.
- **Participate actively**: Contribute thoughtfully to discussions, whether online or in person. Respectful dialogue is essential, especially when dealing with diverse religious perspectives.
- **Submit work on time**: Assignments, essays, and quizzes must be turned in by the stated deadlines. Late submissions will only be accepted under the course policy.
- **Demonstrate academic integrity**: Plagiarism, copying, or misuse of AI tools is prohibited and will be subject to FIU's academic misconduct policies.
- **Practice respectful learning**: Religion can be deeply personal. Students should approach all traditions with openness, respect, and a willingness to understand different viewpoints.
- **Communicate with your instructor**: If you encounter challenges or need clarification, reach out through email or office hours. Open communication helps ensure your success.

- **Take responsibility for your learning**: Use the syllabus as your guide, stay on top of assignments, and take initiative in managing your progress throughout the semester.

By following these expectations, you will not only succeed academically but also gain a deeper appreciation of the diverse religious traditions studied in this course.

Assignments & Assessments

Assignments and Assessments

Requirement	Weight
Quizzes/At Home Assignments	15%
Discussions	15%
Essay 1: Comparative Religious Analysis	20%
Essay 2: Religion in the Contemporary World	20%
Group Presentation	10%
Participation	10%

Total: 100%

Course Communication

In Person/zoom

Policies & Resources

Before starting this course, please review the Policies & Resources Page in Canvas which includes comprehensive information on various University and Course Level Policies such as:

- University Policies
- Accessibility and Accommodations
- Online Etiquette
- Technical Requirements and Skills
- Computer & Digital Literacy Skills
- Course Technology Accessibility Statements and Privacy Policies
- Academic Integrity
- Copyright Statement
- Core Principles of This Course
- Nondiscrimination Statement
- Panthers Care & Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)
- Fair Use Policy

Zoom Video Conference

Zoom is a video conference tool that you can use to interact with your professor and fellow students by sharing screens, chatting, broadcasting live video/audio, and taking part in other interactive online activities.

Zoom meetings can be accessed via the Zoom link in the course navigation menu. Once you click on the Zoom link, it will route you to join the meeting for the respective class session. You will also be able to view upcoming meetings, previous meetings that you have already joined, and meeting recordings. Before joining an actual class session:

- Reference the Zoom Student Tutorials to learn about the tool, how to access your meeting room, and share your screen.

- Access the Zoom Test Meeting Room to test out the software before joining an actual session.

If you encounter any technical difficulties, please contact the FIU Canvas Help Team. Please ensure you contact support immediately upon the issue occurring.

Grading

Grading Scale
A = 95–100 | A- = 90–94

B+ = 87–89 | B = 83–86 | B- = 80–82

C+ = 77–79 | C = 70–76

D = 60–69 | F = 59 or below

Proctored Exams

Please note that the information contained in this section applies only if your course requires a proctored exam.

Through a careful examination of this syllabus, it is the student's responsibility to determine whether this online course requires proctored exams. Please visit our Student Proctored Exam Instructions webpage for important information concerning proctored exams, proctoring centers, and important forms.

Schedule of Topics

Week	Focus	As
1	Introduction to Religion	Re Re Re
2	Indigenous Sacred Ways	Re Rit
3	Hinduism	Re Pr

4	Jainism	Re No
5	Buddhism	Re Re Qu
6	Taoism & Confucianism	Re Stu
7	Judaism	Re Ho
8	Christianity	Re Tea
9	Islam	Re Fiv
10	Sikhism	Re Eq
11	New Religious Movements	Re Pre
12	Religion in the 21st Century	Re Glo 9
13	Contemporary Issues	Ser Ge
14	Review and Integration	Pe Co
15	Final Week	Es Re

UCC Category Description

This course satisfies the University Core Curriculum **Social Sciences, Group 2** requirement.

Social science courses afford students an understanding of the basic social and behavioral science concepts and principles used in the analysis of behavior and past and present social, political, and economic issues.

Nondiscrimination Statement

The **Office of Civil Rights (OCR)** is responsible for ensuring that FIU maintains a workplace and learning environment free from discrimination, where current and prospective faculty, staff, and students are treated equitably. If any student, employee, or applicant has a sincere and reasonable belief that they have been discriminated against or harassed based on age, color, disability, marital status, ethnic or national origin, race, religion, retaliation, sex, or any other protected category, they can report their concerns to the OCR team through report.fiu.edu.